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Inside Today
Metropolitan
 Dhaka Day by Day



We want to help Bangladesh consolidate its infrastructure, says the new Japanese ambassador Toshio Saiki
 Page 3

Article
 Can our leadership convert the enterprise of the people and the national sentiments into a meaningful reconstruction programme? Do we have the vision and courage to look beyond a very traditional type of rehabilitation programme?
 Page 4

International

Rajiv Gandhi's ashes were committed to India's sacred rivers Tuesday in Hindu rites to ensure peace for his soul
 Page 5

Feature
 Development

Breastfed infants have a better nutritional status, and thus less risk of death from diarrhoea
 Page 6

Business
 Government will reintroduce Exchange Rate Fluctuation Absorption Scheme to protect borrowers from depreciation
 Page 8

NEWS BRIEFS

Riyadh warns Hajjis
 RIYADH, May 28: The Ministry of Interior on Tuesday warned Muslims arriving for the annual pilgrimage, or Hajj, not to bring banned political literature into the kingdom, reports AP.

Girl run over by bus
 A girl, Kulsum (11), was killed in a road mishap near Gulsitan Tuesday morning. The girl was crushed under a BRTC bus when she fell down from a rickshaw which was hit by the speeding bus, police said. Kotwali police seized the bus but the driver was absconding, reports UNB.

Yugoslav crisis talks foiled
 BELGRADE, May 28: Yugoslavia's leaders failed in a bid to appoint a President today when crisis talks collapsed because four members of the eight-man presidency stayed away. Kosovo province summoned the other seven presidency members to a meeting to try to fill a power vacuum, reports Reuters.

Oil tanker catches fire
 OSLO, May 28: An oil tanker carrying 32 people was rocked by an explosion and caught fire off the African coast of Angola, rescue authorities based here said Tuesday. The Summer, a Bermuda-registered tanker, was carrying about 1.9 million barrels of oil, reports AP.

Political groups decide to hold free elections in one year
Addis Ababa falls to rebels

ADDIS ABABA, May 28: Rebel fighters took over Ethiopia's capital Tuesday after seizing key government buildings and launching a vicious dawn assault on the presidential palace.
 After 30 years of civil war, the rebels had claimed the ultimate prize.
 In London, at the end of two-day peace talks, a US mediator said the main rebel group would assume control of the capital pending the formation of a broad transitional government that would organise elections within a year.
 The US mediator said expected them to refrain from wholesale reprisals and move quickly to institute democratic rule.
 The government delegation at talks mediated by the United States boycotted Tuesday's session to protest the entry of the insurgents into the capital.
 The palace battle ended about three hours after it began but was followed by widespread gun and rocket fire that tapered off throughout the day.
 Government soldiers at the headquarters of the Ethiopian Ground Forces, on the city's southwestern edge, were overwhelmed in a firefight that lasted about 30 minutes.
 By mid-afternoon, the city was relatively calm and rebels were moving to control looting by deserting government soldiers, police officers and some young armed civilians.
 The city fell exactly a week after the country's Marxist President, Mengistu Haile Mariam, resigned and fled to Zimbabwe after a string of rebel victories that brought his foes to the capital's gates.
 Mengistu had ruled the east African nation of 51 million people for 17 years, propped up by Soviet military aid that began drying up two years ago.
 Thousands of rebels entered the city in trucks and tanks after the interim government ordered soldiers to lay down their arms Monday, the first day of US-mediated peace talks in London.
 The insurgents, asked by See Page 10 Col. 6

Kuwait to take back Bangladeshis

KUWAIT CITY, May 28: The Emir of Kuwait Sheikh Jaber Al-Ahmed Al-Sabah today said arrangements would be made to bring back the Bangladeshi workers who left Kuwait at the time of Gulf War, report agencies.
 This was conveyed to Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia when she met the Emir at the Bayan Palace here.
 Sheikh Jaber Al-Sabah said additional workers would also be taken from Bangladesh.
 The Emir told Begum Zia that a Kuwaiti delegation would go to Bangladesh soon to finalise the return of the Bangladeshi workers.
 Earlier reports said: She arrived in Kuwait yesterday morning on the second leg of her trip which took her to Saudi Arabia last Saturday.
 In Kuwait Begum Zia held immediate talks with the Kuwaiti Crown Prince, Sheikh Saad Al-Abdallah Al-Sabah, official sources reported.
 Begum Zia was earlier in Saudi Arabia, where she met King Fahd and Hamid Al-Gabid, Secretary General of the Organisation of the Islamic See Page 10 Col. 1

VC didn't take measure to save Nizami, Sobhan tells Shahabuddin

Moulana Abdus Sobhan, an MP of Jamaat-e-Islami, met the Acting President, Justice Shahabuddin Ahmed, at the President's Secretariat on Tuesday, reports BSS.
 Moulana Sobhan complained to the Acting President that Moulana Matur Rahman Nizami, MP and leader of Jamaat's parliamentary party, was severely assaulted by some students of Dhaka University in the presence of the Vice-Chancellor at whose invitation Moulana See Page 10 Col. 4



A rickshaw ploughs through one of the many streets water-logged by incessant rainfall Tuesday. The downpour brought vehicular traffic to a near standstill. — Star photo

Rains swamp city

By Staff Correspondent
 Life in Dhaka city was paralysed as a heavy downpour led to serious water-logging in most areas on Tuesday.
 Due to inadequate drainage low-lying areas like Nimali, Nazimuddin Road, Alauddin Road, New Market, Shantinagar, Rajarbagh, Inner Circular Road, Naya Polton, Airport Road, Elephant Road, Basaboo, Goran and Agargaon Road went under knee to waist deep water.
 The Met office in Dhaka said Dhaka recorded 123 millimetres (about five inches) rainfall, the season's highest, during the 24 hours ending at 6 am on the day.
 It started raining heavily from the early hours of Tuesday. By the morning the intensity of rainfall lessened. Drizzles continued till 11 am.
 Water-logging caused serious inconvenience to the movement of both pedestrians and vehicular traffic which remained thin on city streets in the morning.
 Most offices started functioning late, as office-goers took time to reach offices. Attendance in schools and colleges, was also thin.
 In some areas like Shantinagar, Rajarbagh, Nimali and Shahjahanpur rainwater entered shops and dwelling houses. Business transactions in the markets and shopping centres were limited.
 Dhaka WASA sources said two factors contributed to the water-logging — a) maximum rainfall within a minimum span of time (five inches rainfall in two and a half hours), and b) inadequacy of storm sewers in the city.
 The sources said at present there are only 125 kilometres of storm sewer lines of different diameters in the city, even though at least 300 kilometres of storm sewers are needed.
 The sources said of the city areas facing water logging only Agargaon Road, Road No 27 of Dhanmandi Residential Area, Basaboo, Goran and Inner Circular Road do not have storm sewer lines.
 Areas like New Market, Rajarbagh, Shantinagar, Inner Circular Road, Old Airport Road, New Market, Elephant See Page 10 Col. 1

Kazi Zafar takes oath as MP

Former Prime Minister Kazi Zafar Ahmed Tuesday took oath as member of Parliament.
 Speaker Abdur Rahman Biswas administered the oath at his Jatiya Sangsad Chamber at 2 pm.
 Kazi Zafar who is now under preventive detention, was elected from Comilla-12 (Chouddagram constituency) in the February 27 parliamentary elections.
 Former Vice-President Moudud Ahmed, former Minister Tajul Islam and state ministers Syed Deedar Bakht, Advocate Fazle Rabbi and Manirul Haq Chowdhury MP were present.
 The former Prime Minister went into hiding soon after the fall of Ershad government on December 6. He was arrested and put under 120 days' detention on May 16 under Special Powers Act.
 Kazi Zafar was brought to the Sangsad Bhaban under heavy security around 12:30 pm from the PG Hospital where he is undergoing treatment under police guard.
 Journalists were not allowed during the oath-taking of the former Prime Minister.

Industrialists call defaulters list misleading Commission for rehabilitation of sick industries

Star Economic Report
 Before the proposal for the commission was unanimously approved, the minister made an alternative proposal for setting up a committee on sick industries rehabilitation, instead of a commission, but the representatives of the private sector pressed for constituting a quasi-judicial body like the commission in view of what they termed the alarming rate of industrial sickness, leading to "credit recovery problem".
 The proposal was finally endorsed.
 The credit recovery problem or the issue of 'defaulters' in loan repayment dominated the proceedings of the day-long meeting of the consultative committee.
 The functionaries of the leading chamber bodies like the Federation of Bangladesh Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FBCCI), Dhaka Chamber of Commerce and Industry (DCCI), Bangladesh Chamber of Industries (BCI) as well as many trade associations took up the issue on 'bad' and 'doubtful' debts at the meeting.
 BCI Vice President Subid Ali said defaulters lists, as published by Bangladesh Bank and other banks and financial institutions so far, were misleading in nature. The lists did not contain figures about the original amount of loans, repayment See Page 10 Col. 7

No intention of establishing base: Stackpole Tarawa leaves today as St Louis comes

CHITTAGONG, May 28: The Commander of US Joint Task Force (JTF) Major General Henry C. Stackpole said here today that they were going to complete humanitarian and life saving mission in Bangladesh by June 15 next.
 In an exclusive interview with BSS Special correspondent at the operational headquarters of the JTF at Patenga Air Base, Gen. Stackpole said: "Our mission was aimed at preservation of life and distribution of relief materials in the cyclone battered coastal areas and off-shore islands and we provided humanitarian aid that the US President Bush ordered me to do in support of Bangladesh."
 The JTF ships are leaving tomorrow along with all but five Blackhawk helicopters, two C-130 Hercules aircraft will continue to fly from Dhaka to Chittagong with additional relief supplies.
 Gen Stackpole said that the US marine ship USS Saint Louis, coming from Japan, will enter Bangladesh waters tomorrow and four landing craft from the ship will ferry emergency materials to different points for carrying out rehabilitation and restructuring activities.
 Even after the departure of the amphibious Task Force, the Joint Task Force, will continue its operation on a reduced scale, Gen Stackpole said adding this is because life saving operation have been completed and with the supplies already provided the people are now able to control their own future. The cyclone victims have food, clothes, water, medicines and has started rebuilding their own house with the materials we have delivered, he said.
 Replying to a question, General Stackpole said, the long term restructuring of the cyclone shelters and construction of coastal bankment were outside the range of his mission. He said, detailed planning and long term engineering help were needed for these purposes.
 "These were two major needs of the people in the cyclone prone coastal areas and off-shore islands. Bangladesh must get international and multinational help in this regard," he added.
 When his attention was drawn to the opposition criticism levelled against Bangladesh government for the presence of the US Task Force See Page 10 Col. 7

Zafar Imam's release ordered

A Division Bench of the High Court Division on Tuesday directed that the detenu former minister Zafar Imam be set at liberty forthwith, if he is not wanted in connection with any other case, reports BSS.
 The court comprising Justice Abdul Jalil and Justice M. Badruzzaman, delivered the judgement on the writ petition of Zafar Imam challenging his detention.
 M. Nurullah appeared for the former minister, while Syed J. R. Modesser Hossain, Deputy Attorney General, appeared for the state.

Jamaat, other parties protest attack on Nizami

By Staff Correspondent
 Jamaat-e-Islami Tuesday held a rally in the city protesting Monday's attack on its Secretary General and leader of Jamaat's Parliamentary Party Moulana Matur Rahman Nizami on the Dhaka University campus.
 Besides, different political parties issued statements condemning the incident.
 Held at the north gate of Baitul Mukarram, the rally demanded immediate arrest of those responsible for the attack on the Jamaat leader.
 Party leaders Ali Ahsan Muhammad Mujahid, Moulana Abdus Sobhan, ATM Zahurul See Page 10 Col. 5

Monday's incident aims to foil peace efforts

By DU Correspondent
 University Syndicate at the office of the Vice Chancellor. JCD Joint Convener and DUCSU General Secretary Khairul Kabir Khokan, DUCSU AGS Najimuddin Alam, and JCD central leaders Ali Akkas Nadim and Habib-us-Sohel addressed the rally.
 The speakers accused the pro-Mujib Chhatra League (S-A) of planning Monday's attack to foil the peace initiative taken by the DU authorities.
 They demanded early publication of the report of the probe body formed to investigate Monday's incident. The incident marred the possibility of joint efforts by the DU authorities See Page 10 Col. 3

JU remains tense as JCD dispute stays unsolved

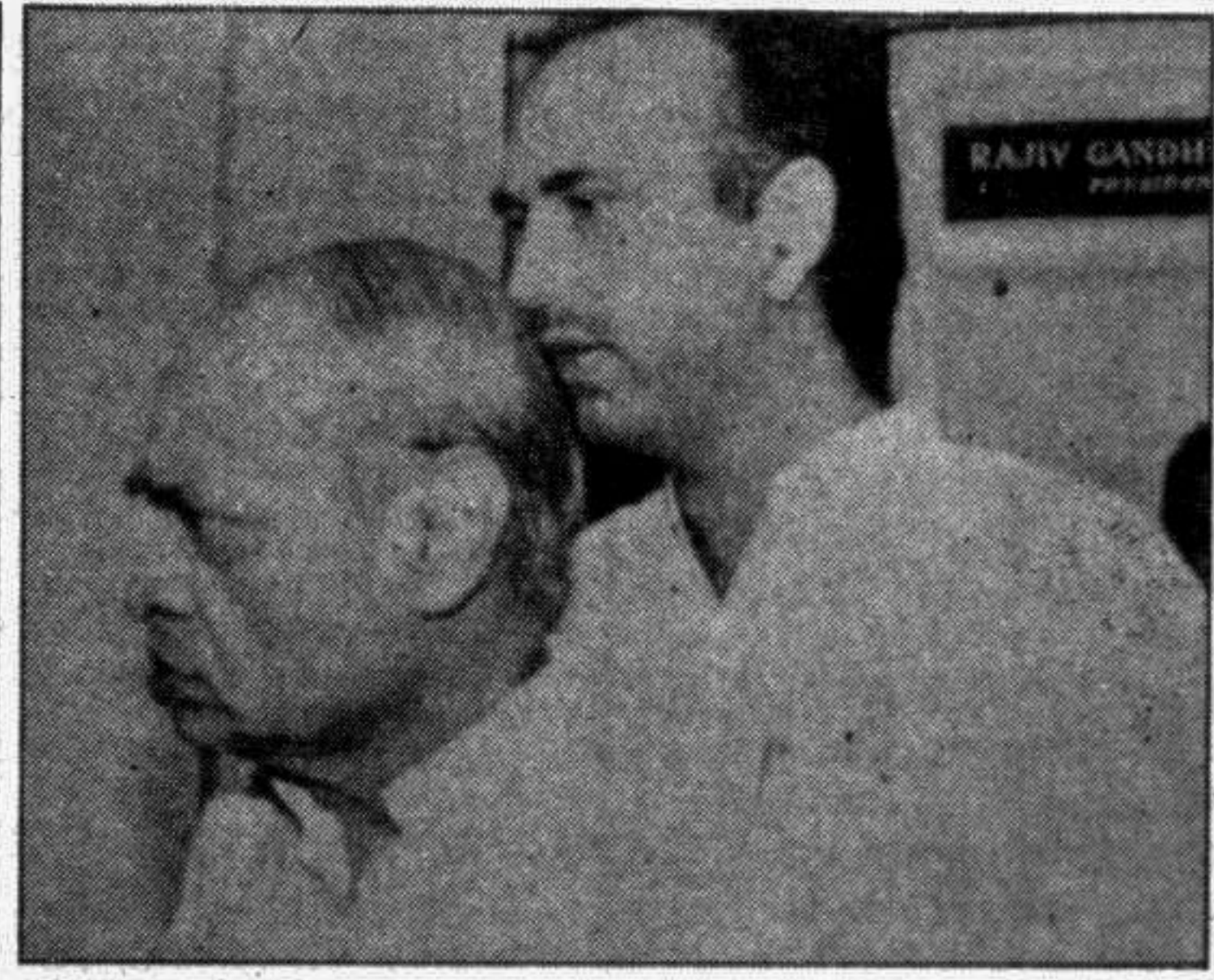
By JU Correspondent
 The situation in the Jahangirnagar University campus has remained tense following a dispute between two factions of the Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD).
 Meanwhile a six-member committee has been formed to try resolve the dispute between the two JCD factions.
 Clashes between the factions began May 19 and continued till May 23 when both sides exchanged gunfire on campus.
 Most of the students have left the halls of University and as a result, the Jahangirnagar University Central Students Union (JUCSU) polls, scheduled to be held on June 6 had to be postponed.
 The last date for submitting nomination papers was May 25.
 But only the JCD had submitted its nomination papers. See Page 10 Col. 8

New Congress chief's function may be split

NEW DELHI, May 28: The assassination of Rajiv Gandhi has plunged his Congress Party, India's rulers for most of its 44 years since independence, into a war of succession between younger and older generations, reports Reuters.
 "It is the biggest crisis of our party," one older generation leader said today as the former prime minister's ashes were poured into holy waters in Hindu rites believed to free his soul.
 The two camps are expected to call a truce to allow his family who had dominated the party and led the country for all but six of its 43 years.
 Traditionally, the party president also was the leader of the delegation in Parliament, which conferred the post of prime minister when Congress was in government.
 Rao's appointment would defer the need to pick a candidate for parliamentary leader until the elections are completed. The final stages of voting, which began the day before Gandhi was killed, were postponed until June 12 and 15.
 Gandhi's death appeared to end the political dynasty that began with his grandfather, India's first prime minister, Jawaharlal Nehru and continued with his mother, Indira Gandhi.
 Hoping to keep the vote-polling name alive in politics, the party invited Gandhi's widow to take its top position immediately after her husband was killed.
 But the Italian-born Mrs Gandhi, who had been quoted even before her husband's assassination as saying she detested politics, rejected the offer.
 The generation gap compounded the Congress problem of having no appointed heir.
 Both Gandhi and his mother and predecessor, Indira Gandhi, prevented alternative leaders emerging. Pran Chopra of the Centre for Policy Research, a New Delhi think-tank, said.
 "Anyone who could look like being rival would be cut down and no authentic leaders from the states were allowed to grow. Therefore there is no leader ready to step into the shoes," he said.
 The geographical balance, important in this huge and diverse country, kept Gandhi at the party's head and prompted a bid to draft his Italian-born widow Sonia to succeed him.
 Only she is acceptable to both the north and south. Her refusal meant the generational split came into the open.
 Rao's expected appointment. See Page 10 Col. 2

Shipping Ministry to implement 30 projects

The Ministry of Shipping is implementing 30 development projects in the current financial year and Taka 224 crore and 71 lakh including a foreign exchange component of Taka 186 crore and 40 lakh has been spent during the last ten months, reports BSS.
 Of the projects eight are expected to be completed by June next. This was disclosed at a review meeting of the Annual Development Programme (ADP) of the Ministry of Shipping in Dhaka Tuesday with Shipping Minister MK Anwar in the chair.



Narasimha Rao along with Congress Secretary General Gulam Nabi Azad coming out of the party central office on Tuesday. — AFP photo